

## Message Text

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43

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

FEAE-00 OMB-01 XMB-02 OPIC-03 /115 W  
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P R 201555Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8250

INFO RUEHBAXAMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1214

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSIN EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS STR FOR MIKE SMITH

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: GATT ETRD

SUBJ: TEXTILES: GATT COUNCIL MEETING, FEB 17

REF: GENEVA 1202, CANBERRA 1188

1. RE PARA 5 REFTTEL.) AUSTRALIA COUNCIL REP (TEESE) CALLED ON  
US TSB REP MORNING FEB 17 STATING HE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS  
INFORM US REP IN ADVANCE COUNCIL MEETING OF POSITION HE  
WOULD TAKE ON COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM "AUSTRALIAN TEXTILE RESTRIC-  
TIONS". SAID THAT GOA HAD DECIDED TERMINATE RESTRICTIONS ON  
IMPORTS OF CERTAIN TEXTILE ITEMS FROM THE PHILIPPINES AND  
SINGAPORE IMPOSED UNDER PROVISIONS OF ART 3:5 OF MFA AND TO  
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PLACE SIMULTANEOUSLY IMPORTS OF KNITTED TOPS (PRINCIPAL ITEM

CONCERNED) UNDER A GLOBAL TARIFF QUOTA. SAID TQ ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE "HOUR OR SO" BEFORE HIS STATEMENT TO GATT COUNCIL. ASSERTED HE UNDER INSTRUCTION MAKE NO REFERENCE TO TQ ACTION UNLESS RAISED BY OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS AND INQUIRED WHETHER US REP HAD HEARD OF ANY INTENT OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS QUESTION TQ ACTION. US REP REPLIED IN NEGATIVE. (GOA ART 3 ACTIONS HAD BEEN REVIEWED BY TSB, FOUND INCONSISTENT WITH PROVISIONS OF MFA AND SO NOTIFIED TO GATT COUNCIL--GATT DOCUMENTS L/4257 AND L/4285). TEESE ALSO SAID HE HANDING LETTER TO TSB CHAIRMAN SAME DAY CONVEYING GOA DECISION BUT THAT LETTER WOULD MAKE NO MENTION SIMULTANEOUS TQ ACTION ON KNITTED TOPS. SAID HE WOULD, HOWEVER, ORALLY INFORM TSB CHAIRMAN THIS ACTION. TEESE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT TQ ACTION WAS, FOR GOA, ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO LEAVING MFA; ADDING THAT DISCRIMINATORY ART 3 ACTION AGAINST PHILIPPINES HAD BECOME "RUNNING SORE" IN AUSTRALIA-PHILIPPINE TRADE RELATIONS AND THAT GOA HAD REASON BELIEVE THAT PHILIPPINES WOULD MUCH PREFER TQ ACTION TO CONTINUATION ART 3. DID NOT KNOW WHAT POSITION SINGAPORE WOULD TAKE.

2. WHEN AGENDA ITEM CAME UP, TEESE, SPEAKING FOR GOA, OPENED DISCUSSION BY READING OPERATIVE PORTIONS OF GOA LETTER TO TSB CHAIRMAN WHICH, AS INDICATED ABOVE, MADE NO REFERENCE TO ACCOMPANYING TQ ACTION ON KNITTED TOPS. PHILIPPINE REP FOLLOWED WITH STATEMENT EXPRESSING APPRECIATION GOA ACTION AND NOTING "PARAMOUNT ROLE" OF TSB IN PRODUCING GRATIFYING RESULT. SINGAPORE REP THEN TOOK FLOOR AND ALSO EXPRESSED GOS GRATIFICATION GOA ACTION, DWELLING AT LENGTH ON "GREAT WISDOM" DISPLAYED BY TSB WHICH, IN HIS VIEW, WAS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR GOA TERMINATION OF "UNJUST" ART 3 ACTION (GOS COUNCIL REP IS ALSO CURRENT ALTERNATE REP ON TSB). COUNCIL THEN "NOTEDZ TSB NOTIFICATINS AND DISCUSSION WAS CLOSED.

3. IN VIEW FACT GOA TQ ACTION ON KNITTED TOPS WAS, ACCORING TEESE, LEAKED TO PRESS AND SUBJECT PRESS COVERAGE FOR WEEK BEFORE IT FORMALLY FNNOUNCED FEB 17, IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT GOP AND GOS COUNCIL REPS WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AWARE OF ACTION BEFORE COUNCIL MEETING AND, FURTHER THAT BOTH GOP AND GOS REGARD SUCH ACTION AS PREFERABLE TO ART 3 RESTRICTIONS. DALE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXTILES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** ETRD, GATT  
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